

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4401

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SEDU, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: TOUGH ACTION AGAINST NUSAS RECOMMENDED

REF: CAPE TOWN A-120, NOVEMBER 8, 1974

1. SECOND INTERIM REPORT OF VAN WYK DE VRIES COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO UNIVERSITIES (REFAIR), TABLED IN PARLIAMENT FEB 11, RECOMMENDS BROAD MEASURES BE TAKEN BY GOVT WHICH WOULD EFFICIENTLY DESTROY NATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS (NUSAS) AS POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. DECLARING THAT NUSAS IS "MILITANT SPEARHEAD OF A MOVEMENT THAT SEEKS TO OVERTHROW THE EXISTING SOCIAL ORDER" IN SOUTH AFRICA, REPORT PROPOSES THAT LEGISLATION BE ENACTED TO FORCE NUSAS TO CEASE ITS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND DISMANTLE ITS POLITICAL MACHINERY.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS ALSO PROPOSE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD BREAK LINK BETWEEN STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILS (SRC'S) AND NUSAS, EMPOWER MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION TO DECLARE ANY INTER-UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATION AS "UNDESIRABLE", PLACE DRASIC CURBS ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF STUDENTS BOTH ON AND OFF CAMPUSES, LIMIT PERMISSIBLE POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT BY TEACHING STAFF, AND

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CAUSE NORMAL GOVT SUBSIDIES TO UNIVERSITIES TO BE FORFEITED IF

STUDENTS OR STAFF PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, COURTS WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM JURISDICTION OVER SUCH ACTION AGAINST UNIVERSITIES. DETAILS BY AIRGRAM.

3. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT, MINISTER OF EDUCATION J.P. VAN DER SPUY SAID HE COULD GIVE NO INDICATION WHETHER HE INTENDED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION THIS SESSION TO IMPLEMENT COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS. PARLIAMENTARY SOURCES TELL US THEY UNAWARE OF ANY IMPENDING LEGISLATION.

4. NUSAS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF SRC AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN TOLD EMBOFF THAT THEY WILL WORK TO HAVE UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS RESPOND TO THIS "ATTACK ON BASIC ACADEMIC FREEDOMS" IN ATTEMPT TO STAVE OFF LEGISLATION. IF UNSUCCESSFUL THEY SAY THEY WILL SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATE CALLING FOR RESISTANCE TO AND DEFIANCE OF ANY LEGISLATION ALONG LINES SUGGESTED IN REPORT.

5. COMMENT: IF LEGISLATION IS ENACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS, NUSAS AS A POLITICAL ANIMAL WILL BE DEAD. PROPOSALS, HOWEVER, GO FAR BEYOND JUST NUSAS AND ARE DIRECT ATTACK ON VIRTUALLY ANY STUDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHICH DOES NOT HAVE THE DIRECT BLESSING OF GOVT. AS IS COMMON WITH MOST SA INTERNAL SECURITY LEGISLATION, WORDING OF PROPOSALS WOULD LEAVE DECISIONS UP TO DISCRETION OF MINISTER INVOLVED, AND WOULD REMOVE ACTION FROM REALM OF RECOURSE TO COURTS.

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